

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SOPN, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK PROPOSALS FOR EXCHANGE OF JOURNALISTS
DELEGATIONS

REF: PRAGUE 3036

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA ARE IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH
YOUR VIEW THAT WE NEED NOT DISMISS OUT OF HAND THE IDEA
OF AN EXCHANGE OF JOURNALIST DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH
PUTTING TOGETHER AND ORCHESTRATING A US JOURNALIST
DELEGATION WOULD BE NO EASY TASK.

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2. WE AGREE THAT THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT COME UP DURING THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT TALKS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, TO HAVE BEFOREHAND SOME INDICATION FROM THE FRG AND AUSTRIA, WITH WHOM THE CZECHS HAVE HAD SUCH EXCHANGES, AS TO HOW THEIR DELEGATIONS WERE RECEIVED, WHAT KIND OF ACCESS AND FREEDOM OF MOBILITY THEY ENJOYED, WHETHER THEIR JOURNALISTS FOUND THEIR VISIT USEFUL, ETC.

3. ANOTHER IMPORTANT QUESTION WOULD BE THE FUNDING OF SUCH DELEGATION VISITS. OUR POSITION AT THIS POINT WOULD BE THAT EACH SIDE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN JOURNALISTS' COSTS OF TRAVEL, LODGING AND OTHER EXPENSES. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE A SUBJECT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION ONCE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN ON THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM.

4. WE PROPOSE THAT THE EMBASSY ASK ITS COLLEAGUES AT THE AUSTRIAN AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES IN PRAGUE HOW THEY VIEWED THE EXCHANGES, AND WHETHER THEY PERCEIVE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE CZECHS TO USE SUCH DELEGATIONS AS SURROGATES FOR INDEPENDENT AND "UNCONTROLLED" VISITS BY INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS. KISSINGER

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